

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for protecting ships or harbors from attack by vessels comprising

a capture device formed by a net of strong material to be disposed above a

5 water surface,

masts attached to the net for maintaining the net in an upright orientation,

a plurality of buoys floatable on a water surface to which the masts are attached for supporting the respective masts,

ballast weights adapted to be secured to lower ends of the respective masts, and

10 anchors connected to sections of the net for providing a restraining force on the net against predetermined movement of the net.

2. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein the anchors comprise deployable canopies which normally are packed in respective containers, but which canopies can
15 be deployed as a result of force applied to the net by an attacking vessel.

3. An apparatus as in Claim 2 wherein the canopies are connected via shroud lines and anchor lines to sections of the net, and the canopies normally are contained in respective containers comprising deployment bags.

4. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein the anchors include canopies whereby a bow of a vessel engaging the net causes deployment of the canopy which in turn provides resistance to act as an anchor to impart a downward force to the bow of an attacking vessel.

5. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein the anchors include canopies whereby a bow of a vessel engaging the net causes deployment of the canopy which in turn provides resistance to act as an anchor to impart a lateral force to the bow of an attacking vessel.

6. An apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein the anchors include canopies whereby a bow of a vessel engaging the net causes deployment of the canopy which in turn provides resistance to act as an anchor to impart a downward and lateral force to the bow of an attacking vessel.

7. Apparatus for protecting ships or harbors from attack by vessels comprising a capture device formed by a net of strong material to be disposed above a water surface

masts attached to the net for maintaining the net in an upright orientation,
a plurality of buoys floatable on a water surface to which the masts are attached
for supporting the respective masts,

ballast weights adapted to be secured to lower ends of the respective masts, and

5 anchors connected to sections of the net for providing a restraining force on the
net against predetermined movement of the net whereby a bow of a vessel engaging
the net causes the anchors to be pulled which in turn provides resistance to impart a
downward force to the bow of an attacking vessel.

10 8. An apparatus as in Claim 7 wherein the anchors comprise deployable
canopies which normally are packed in respective deployment containers, but which
canopies can be deployed as a result of force applied to the net by an attacking vessel.

9. An apparatus as in Claim 8 wherein the canopies are connected via
15 shroud lines and anchor lines to sections of the net, and the canopies normally are
contained in respective deployment containers.

10. Apparatus for protecting ships or harbors from attack by vessels
comprising a deployable "wall of water" comprising

a plurality of water compartments forming a vertical structure comprising a sea wall for containing water to form a vertical wall of water,

flotation chambers attached to the structure for retaining the structure in a vertical orientation, and

5 the compartments of the structure and chambers are formed of resilient material allowing the same to be rolled or folded into a storage container for storing the sea wall when not in use and the container being attachable to the side of a ship or harbor to be protected.

10 11. Apparatus as in Claim 10 wherein the sea wall is an elongated vertical structure which can be disposed alongside a ship or harbor to be protected from attack.

12. Apparatus as in Claim 10 wherein the storage container includes a cable system for lowering the sea wall and flotation chambers downwardly therefrom,
15 adjacent the side of a ship or harbor to be protected.

13. Apparatus as in Claim 10 including a plurality of sea walls and flotation chambers attachable to and disposed around at least one longitudinal side of a ship or harbor to be protected.

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14. A method for protecting ships or harbors from attack by vessels via a deployable "wall of water" comprising forming a vertical wall of water alongside a ship or harbor by providing water-filled resilient chambers secured together to form a vertical structure comprising a sea wall, and

5 floating the sea wall adjacent a ship or harbor to be protected.

15. A method as in Claim 14 comprising the further step of collapsing the structure to allow the same to be compactly disposed and attachable to the side of a ship or harbor to be protected.

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16. A method as in Claim 14 wherein the sea wall is provided to stop a vessel.

17. A method as in Claim 14 wherein the sea wall is used for blast mitigation.